News-item captioned 'Diplomat involved in Drug smuggling'

2441. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 23rd July, 1984 captioned 'Diplomat involved in drug smuggling';

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that in the past also several Diplomats were found indulging in smuggling; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken against the concerned Diplomats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 23rd July, 1984 captioned "Diplomat involved in drug smuggling".

(b) Reports received by the Government indicate that one Shri Hans Raj Sharma, along with one Mrs. Chibb and her two minor children were intercepted at London's Heathrow Airport by the Officers of Her Majesty's Customs on 30th May, 1984 on their arrival from Delhi by British Airways flight No. 146. 4.5 Kgs. of Heroin was found in the suitcase belonging to Hans Raj Sharma. Shri Babu Lal Gupta, a diplomatic officer of the High Commission of India at London had gone to the airport to receive Mrs. Chibb and her children. Shri Gupta was questioned by the Customs Officers. The case against Shri Hans Raj Sharma is under investigation.

(c) and (d) Government have come across a few cases where foreign diplomats were involved in smuggling activities. In such cases, Government take appropriate action in co-ordination with the Governments of the countries concerned and remain in confidential touch with them with a view to preventing any recurrence of such abuses. The concerned Governments had been requested to recall the diplomats who were themselves engaged in smuggling or whose close relatives were so engaged in smuggling activities. These requests have invariably been honoured.

Selection for various posts made by Hotel Corporation of India

2442. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some students of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Pusa, New Delhi who have been selected for various posts in May, 1984, by the Hotel Corporation of India (H.C.I.) have still not received the letters of appointment from the Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) The suitability of the candidates of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Pusa, New Delhi has been assessed. The candidates from Madras and Bombay Catering Institutes have also been interviewed and a composite panel is being drawn up. Letters of appointments will be issued to the selected candidates including those from Delhi institute after the finalisation of the panel.

Loans granted under the 20-Point Programme

2443. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons who were granted loans from the